

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 081244

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

FOL RPT BEIRUT 2906 ACTION SECSTATE 2 APR QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 2906

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH JUMBLATT

1. I MET WITH JUMBLATT ON SCHEDULE AT 1530, APRIL 2.

LARGE PRESS CROWD PRESENT BEFORE AND AFTER MEETING WHICH

HE, NOT I, BRIEFED AFTER I LEFT.

2. DURING ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION, JUMBLATT

REVIEWED IN DETAIL HIS PROGRAM OF SOCIAL REFORMS AND HIS

AIM OF TURNING LEBANON INTO A MULTI-PARTY, WESTERN,

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LEBANESE DEMOCRACY. HIGH ON LIST OF REFORMS WERE SECU-

LARIZATION AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. LEBANON, HE DECLARED, HAD TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

3. JUMBLATT ALSO COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT SYRIAN HIGH-HANDEDNESS AND UNDUE INTERFERENCE IN LEBANESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THEN ABOUT FACT THEY HAD NOT INSTITUTED RADICAL CHANGES. SAID HE HAD TOLD THE SYRIANS HE FAVORED CONFEDERATION AS HAD FRANGIE, BUT TO HIM THIS REQUIRED MULTI-PARTY, DEMOCRATIC BASIS, AND TOTALITARIANISM.

4. I TOLD JUMBLATT THAT I DID NOT PLANT TO COMMENT ON THE REFORMS HE PROPOSED (MOST, IN FACT, HAVE LONG BEEN IN PRACTICE IN THE WEST). I SAID IT IS OBVIOUSLY UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT SUCH MAJOR CHANGES COULD BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION.

5. I STRESSED THE REALITIES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE NECESSITY FOR COMPROMISE. I THEN CONCENTRATED ON EXPLAINING TO HIM JUST HOW DANGEROUS THE CHAOTIC SITUATION IN LEBANON WAS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN ALL-OUT WAR. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAD SUPPORTED THE SYRIAN POLITICAL INITIATIVE. ALSO SAID AND MADE CLEAR WHILE WE OPPOSED UNILATERAL MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH COULD LEAD TO OTHER INTERVENTION AND MADE THIS CLEAR, THIS DID NOT MEAN SUCH INTERVENTION EXCLUDED. U.S. COULD NOT CONTROL ACTIONS OF OTHERS. THAT IS WHY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN CEASEFIRE AND GET ON WITH BUSINESS OF GOVT INCLUDING NEW PRESIDENT.

6. I TRIED TO DETERMINE WHETHER JUMBLATT ACCEPTED THIS THESIS. HE DID NOT. HE SAYS HE CANNOT RULE OUT THE RETURN TO ARMS IF THERE NO GENUINE REFORM THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

7. JUMBLATT IS A KIND OF NUT, MARCUSE, TOFFLER, MARX AND KORAN WERE ALL QUOTED. HE DREAMS BIG. HE CAN BE A SPOILER BUT NOT THE CHIEF. HE HAS THE ABILITY
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TO VETO, ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW WHEN OTHERS WAVER. TODAY HE RELIES ON THE PALESTINIAN FOR SUPPORT; TOMORROW HE COULD BE PRO-SYRIAN.

8. I'M NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR TALK. TOO MANY PEOPLE WERE THERE AND HE HAD TO POSTURE. I'M LUNCHING TOMORROW WITH HIS TWO CHIEF DEPUTIES. BOTH ARE U.S. EDUCATED. FOLLOWING THAT I'LL HAVE

SECOND GO AROUND WITH JUMBLATT AS HE SUGGESTED.

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